

1 IN THE CLAIMS:

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102* 2 Claim 1. A self-authenticating article comprising:

a plastic paper substitute adapted to retain various forms
of indicia; and a means particularly adapted for revealing
hidden indicia, said means defining an authenticating area
which forms a unitary and integral structure in combination
with said plastic paper substitute;

wherein said authenticating area is positionable in
juxtaposed relation to said hidden indicia thereby providing
instant verification of the authenticity of said article.

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102 12 Claim 2. The self-authenticating article of claim 1 wherein
13 said authenticating means comprises a decoding lens.

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102 15 Claim 3. The self authenticating article of claim 2
16 wherein said lens is inlaid.

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102 18 Claim 4. The self authenticating article of claim 2
19 wherein said lens is preformed.

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102 21 Claim 5. The self authenticating article of claim 2
22 wherein said lens is produced by an intaglio engraving process.

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1 102 Claim 6. The self authenticating article of claim 1
2 wherein said hidden indicia comprises one or more digitally
3 produced latent images, each of said images being encoded in
4 accordance with particular parameters whereby revelation of
5 said hidden indicia is only achievable by a particularly
6 programmed authenticating means.

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8 102 Claim 7. The self authenticating article of claim 1
9 wherein said hidden indicia are associated with said plastic
10 paper substitute in accordance with parameters set forth by a
11 computer implemented software program, said hidden indicia
12 being characterized by one or more latent images visible only
13 when viewed through said means particularly adapted for
14 revealing said hidden indicia.

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16 103 Claim 8. The self authenticating article of claim 1
17 wherein said plastic paper substitute is selected from the
18 group consisting of synthetic resin films having a high degree
19 of writability and printability, laminate composite structures
20 including combinations of paper and non-paper materials, latex
21 saturated durable papers, coated polyolefin substrates formed
22 from randomly dispersed and bonded polyolefin filaments,
23 reinforced papers, and combinations thereof.

1 102 Claim 9. The self authenticating article of claim 1
2 wherein said article is selected from the group consisting of
3 currency, stock certificates, bond certificates, special event
4 tickets, tax stamps, official certificates, passports, bank and
5 travelers checks, anti-counterfeiting labels, birth
6 certificates, land deed titles, visas, food stamps, lottery
7 tickets, driver's licenses, wills, coupons, rebates, contracts,
8 test answer forms, invoices, inventory forms, and original
9 artwork.

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11 102 Claim 10. A self-authenticating article comprising:
12 a plastic paper substitute adapted to retain various forms
13 of indicia and including thereon hidden indicia; and
14 a means particularly adapted for revealing said hidden
15 indicia, said means defining an authenticating area which forms
16 a unitary and integral structure in combination with said
17 plastic paper substitute;
18 wherein said authenticating area is positionable in
19 juxtaposed relation to said hidden indicia thereby providing
20 instant verification of the authenticity of said article.

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1 102 Claim 11. The self-authenticating article of claim 10
2 wherein said authenticating means comprises an optical viewing
3 lens.

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5 102 Claim 12. The self authenticating article of claim 11
6 wherein said optical viewing lens is inlaid.

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8 102 Claim 13. The self authenticating article of claim 11
9 wherein said optical viewing lens is preformed.

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11 102 Claim 14. The self authenticating article of claim 11
12 wherein said optical viewing lens is produced by an intaglio
13 engraving process.

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15 102 Claim 15. The self authenticating article of claim 10
16 wherein said hidden indicia comprises one or more digitally
17 produced latent images, each of said images being encoded in
18 accordance with particular parameters whereby revelation of
19 said hidden indicia is only achievable by a particularly
20 programmed authenticating means.

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1 10² Claim 16. The self authenticating article of claim 10
2 wherein said hidden indicia are associated with said plastic 11²
3 paper substitute in accordance with parameters set forth by a
4 computer implemented software program, said hidden indicia
5 being characterized by one or more latent images visible only
6 when viewed through said means particularly adapted for
7 revealing said hidden indicia.

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9 10³ Claim 17. The self authenticating article of claim 10
10 wherein said plastic paper substitute is selected from the
11 group consisting of synthetic resin films having a high degree
12 of writability and printability, laminate composite structures
13 including combinations of paper and non-paper materials, latex
14 saturated durable papers, coated polyolefin substrates formed
15 from randomly dispersed and bonded polyolefin filaments,
16 reinforced papers, and combinations thereof.

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18 10² Claim 18. The self authenticating article of claim 10
19 wherein said article is selected from the group consisting of
20 currency, stock certificates, bond certificates, special event
21 tickets, tax stamps, official certificates, passports, bank and
22 travelers checks, anti-counterfeiting labels, birth
23 certificates, land deed titles, visas, food stamps, lottery

1 tickets, driver's licenses, wills, coupons, rebates, contracts,
2 test answer forms, invoices, inventory forms, and original
3 artwork.

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5 *102* Claim 19. A self-authenticating article comprising:
6 a plastic paper substitute containing visible and hidden
7 indicia; and a means particularly adapted for revealing said
8 hidden indicia, said means defining an authenticating area
9 which forms a unitary and integral structure in combination
10 with said plastic paper substitute; wherein said authenticating
11 area is positionable in juxtaposed relation to said hidden
12 indicia thereby providing instant verification of the
13 authenticity of said article.

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15 *102* Claim 20. The self-authenticating article of claim 19
16 wherein said authenticating means comprises a optical viewing
17 lens.

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19 *102* Claim 21. The self authenticating article of claim 20
20 wherein said optical viewing lens is inlaid.

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22 *102* Claim 22. The self authenticating article of claim 20
23 wherein said optical viewing lens is preformed.

1 102 Claim 23. The self authenticating article of claim 20
2 wherein said optical viewing lens is produced by an intaglio
3 engraving process.

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5 102 Claim 24. The self authenticating article of claim 19
6 wherein said hidden indicia comprises one or more digitally
7 produced latent images, each of said images being encoded in
8 accordance with particular parameters whereby revelation of
9 said hidden indicia is only achievable by a particularly
10 programmed authenticating means.

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12 102 Claim 25. The self authenticating article of claim 19
13 wherein said hidden indicia are associated with said plastic
14 paper substitute in accordance with parameters set forth by a
15 computer implemented software program, said hidden indicia
16 being characterized by one or more latent images visible only
17 when viewed through said means particularly adapted for
18 revealing said hidden indicia.

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1 1⁰3 Claim 26. The self authenticating article of claim 19
2 wherein said plastic paper substitute is selected from the
3 group consisting of synthetic resin films having a high degree
4 of writability and printability, laminate composite structures
5 including combinations of paper and non-paper materials, latex
6 saturated durable papers, coated polyolefin substrates formed
7 from randomly dispersed and bonded polyolefin filaments,
8 reinforced papers, and combinations thereof.

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10 1⁰7 Claim 27. The self authenticating article of claim 19
11 wherein said article is selected from the group consisting of
12 currency, stock certificates, bond certificates, special event
13 tickets, tax stamps, official certificates, passports, bank and
14 travelers checks, anti-counterfeiting labels, birth
15 certificates, land deed titles, visas, food stamps, lottery
16 tickets, driver's licenses, wills, coupons, rebates, contracts,
17 test answer forms, invoices, inventory forms, and original
18 artwork.

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20 1⁰8 - Claim 28. A self-authenticating currency comprising:
21 a plastic paper substitute containing visible currency
22 defining indicia and hidden currency authenticating indicia;
23 and

1 a means particularly adapted for revealing said hidden
2 indicia, said means defining an authenticating area which forms
3 a unitary and integral structure in combination with said
4 plastic paper substitute;

5 wherein said authenticating area is positionable in
6 juxtaposed relation to said hidden indicia thereby providing
7 instant verification of the authenticity of said currency.

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9 /¹⁰² Claim 29. The self-authenticating article of claim 28
10 wherein said authenticating means comprises a optical viewing
11 lens.

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13 /¹⁰² Claim 30. The self authenticating article of claim 29
14 wherein said optical viewing lens is inlaid.

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16 /¹⁰² Claim 31. The self authenticating article of claim 29
17 wherein said optical viewing lens is preformed.

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19 /¹⁰² Claim 32. The self authenticating article of claim 29
20 wherein said optical viewing lens is produced by an intaglio
21 engraving process.

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Claim 33. The self authenticating article of claim 28
wherein said hidden indicia comprises one or more digitally
produced latent images, each of said images being encoded in
accordance with particular parameters whereby revelation of
said hidden indicia is only achievable by a particularly
programmed authenticating means.

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Claim 34. The self authenticating article of claim 28
wherein said hidden indicia are associated with said plastic
paper substitute in accordance with parameters set forth by a
computer implemented software program, said hidden indicia
being characterized by one or more latent images visible only
when viewed through said means particularly adapted for
revealing said hidden indicia.

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Claim 35. The self authenticating article of claim 28
wherein said plastic paper substitute is selected from the
group consisting of synthetic resin films having a high degree
of writability and printability, laminate composite structures
including combinations of paper and non-paper materials, latex
saturated durable papers, coated polyolefin substrates formed
from randomly dispersed and bonded polyolefin filaments,
reinforced papers, and combinations thereof.

1 1^o2 Claim 36. The self authenticating article of claim 28
2 wherein said article is selected from the group consisting of
3 currency, stock certificates, bond certificates, special event
4 tickets, tax stamps, official certificates, passports, bank and
5 travelers checks, anti-counterfeiting labels, birth
6 certificates, land deed titles, visas, food stamps, lottery
7 tickets, driver's licenses, wills, coupons, rebates, contracts,
8 test answer forms, invoices, inventory forms, and original
9 artwork.

10
11 Claim 37. A method for preventing counterfeiting of
12 documents comprising:

13 providing a plastic paper substitute adapted to retain
14 various forms of indicia;

15 providing a means particularly adapted for revealing
16 hidden indicia, said means defining an authenticating area
17 which forms a unitary and integral structure in combination
18 with said plastic paper substitute; and

19 applying indicia selected from the group consisting of
20 visible indicia, hidden indicia and combinations thereof to the
21 surface of said plastic paper substitute;

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1 whereby said authenticating area is positionable in
2 juxtaposed relation to said hidden indicia thereby providing
3 instant verification of the authenticity of said article.

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5 Claim 38. The method of deterring counterfeiting
6 in accordance with claim 37 wherein: said authenticating means
7 provided comprises a optical viewing lens.

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9 Claim 39. The method of deterring counterfeiting
10 in accordance with claim 38 wherein said optical viewing lens
11 is inlaid.

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13 Claim 40. The method of deterring counterfeiting
14 in accordance with claim 38 wherein said optical viewing lens
15 is preformed.

16

17 Claim 41. The method of deterring counterfeiting
18 in accordance with claim 38 wherein said optical viewing lens
19 is produced by an intaglio engraving process.

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1 Claim 42. The method of deterring counterfeiting
2 in accordance with claim 37 wherein said hidden indicia
3 comprises one or more digitally produced latent images, each of
4 said images being encoded in accordance with particular
5 parameters whereby revelation of said hidden indicia is only
6 achievable by a particularly programmed authenticating means.

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8 Claim 43. The method of deterring counterfeiting
9 in accordance with claim 37 wherein said hidden indicia are
10 associated with said plastic paper substitute in accordance
11 with parameters set forth by a computer implemented software
12 program, said hidden indicia being characterized by one or more
13 latent images visible only when viewed through said means
14 particularly adapted for revealing said hidden indicia.

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16 Claim 44. The method of deterring counterfeiting
17 in accordance with claim 37 wherein said plastic paper
18 substitute is selected from the group consisting of synthetic
19 resin films having a high degree of writability and
20 printability, laminate composite structures including
21 combinations of paper and non-paper materials, latex saturated
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1 durable papers, coated polyolefin substrates formed from
2 randomly dispersed and bonded polyolefin filaments, reinforced
3 papers, and combinations thereof.

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5 Claim 45. The method of deterring counterfeiting
6 in accordance with claim 37 wherein said document is selected
7 from the group consisting of currency, stock certificates, bond
8 certificates, special event tickets, tax stamps, official
9 certificates, passports, bank and travelers checks, anti-
10 counterfeiting labels, birth certificates, land deed titles,
11 visas, food stamps, lottery tickets, driver's licenses, wills,
12 coupons, rebates, contracts, test answer forms, invoices,
13 inventory forms, and original artwork.

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